

HA-1820  
1924  
Bel Air  
Private

The Gentry House, 421 E. Broadway, faces north on a large lot in Ingleside. It has most of the elements typical of the four-squares built in Bel Air in the 1920s: the blocky shape, 2 bays square, with shingle siding on the second story, a hipped roof with centered hip dormer, and occasional multiple windows. The interior use of space is also typical.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Ingleside was subdivided by J. Edwin Webster and named for his home to the north. Work on this house in Ingleside was begun in April of 1924 by Stanley Gentry. The house is an entirely typical four-square, little changed since 1924.

HA-1820  
Gentry House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

  x   11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

      12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. HA-1820

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Gentry House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 421 E. Broadway ☐ not for publication

city, town Bel Air ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name W. Hayes Smith

street & number 421 E. Broadway telephone no.: 893-6844

city, town Bel Air state and zip code Md 21014

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1219

street & number folio 811

city, town Bel Air state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1820

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Gentry House, 421 E. Broadway, faces north on a large lot. It has most of the elements typical of the four-squares built in Bel Air in the 1920s: the blocky shape, 2 bays square, with shingle siding on the second story, a hipped roof with centered hip dormer, and occasional multiple windows. The interior use of space is also typical.

The composite on the first story is over the original clapboard. The hipped-roof porch on three slender round columns had acquired a simple balustrade. The shed addition on the rear (south) is part of a kitchen renovation.

The entrance in the east bay of the facade leads to the living room which occupies the whole front. It is lighted by triple double-hung sash windows. The closed-string, dog-leg staircase with square newel and square balusters rises along the rear (south) wall, its dog-leg directly across from the entrance. A door on the landing leads to what was the kitchen and is now a breakfast room, the kitchen having been moved into the shed addition, which is probably an enclosed back porch. Paired double-hung sash windows occupy the south bay of the side elevations, lighting dining room (west) and breakfast room (east). Woodwork is entirely plain. The typical large, doorless opening joins the living room and dining room.

Upstairs are 3 bedrooms and a bath. There were originally 4 bedrooms, but part of the 4th (smallest) was taken for an enlarged bathroom.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1820

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1924 **Builder/Architect** Stanley Gentry

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Ingleside was subdivided by J. Edwin Webster and named for his home to the north. Work on this house in Ingleside was begun in April of 1924 by Stanley Gentry. The house is an entirely typical four-square, little changed since 1924.

Edward H. Robinson and his wife bought the property in 1930, and it has been in the family ever since. Robinson worked for the telephone company, starting as a lineman. It was probably he who changed the kitchen. Robinson died in October 1972, leaving the property to his children. In 1984, a daughter, Edith Virginia Smith, and her son, William Hayes Smith, brought it. The son and his wife moved into the house that year. Before that an aged aunt had lived there. The Smiths enlarged the bathroom and are in the process of taking the composite off the first story.

The flagstones in the front walk are said to be from Bel Air's old sidewalks.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1820

Harford County Land Records.  
Site visit, April 1993

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 619 in the Town of Bel Air, 180' x 183'.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Lareworganization \_\_\_\_\_ date 7-15-93street & number RD 1, Box 219 telephone 717-993-3557city or town New Park state PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

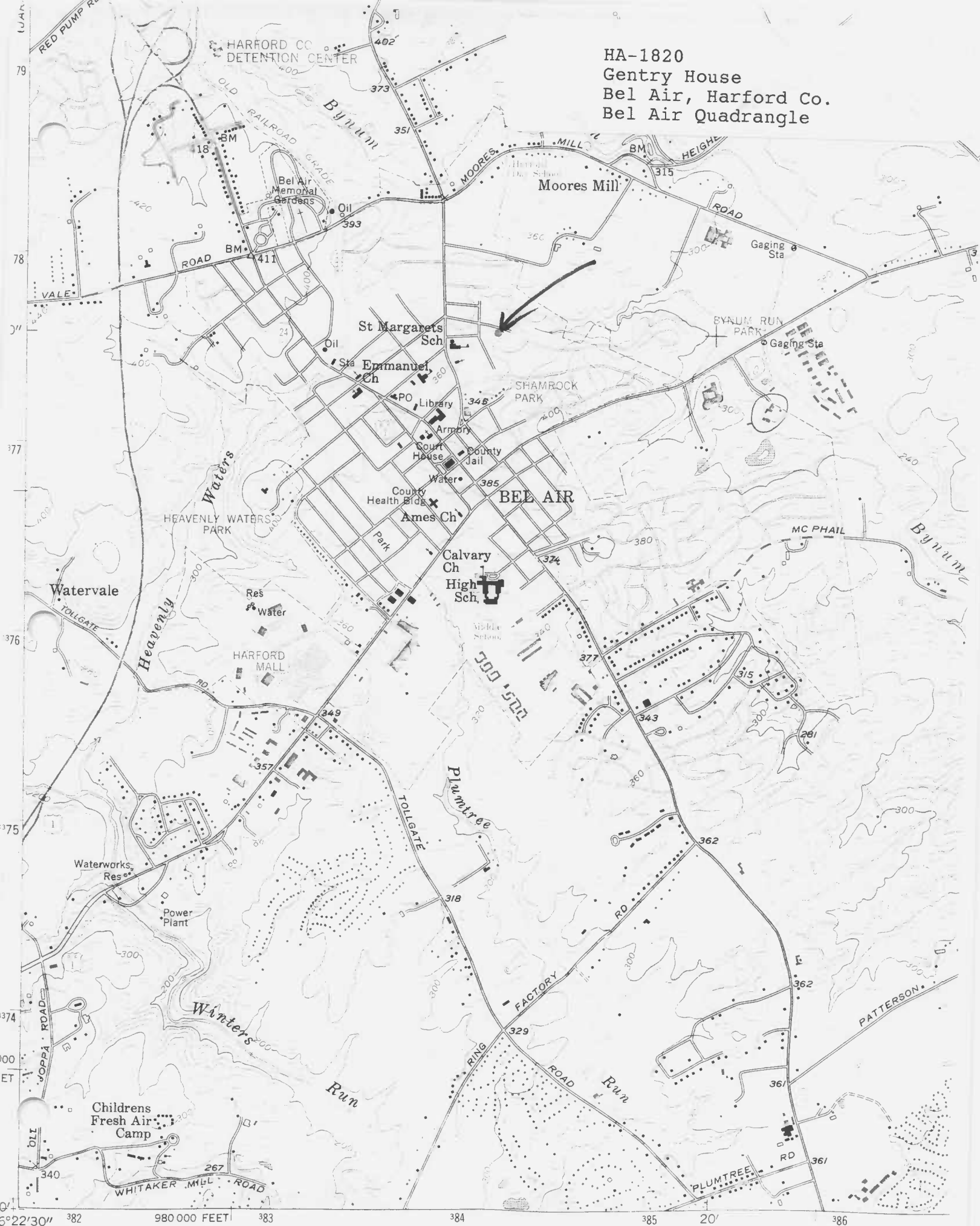
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
CROWLEY  
1993

HA-1820  
Gentry House  
421 E. Broadway  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner W. Smith Hayes

- 1219/811            28 Jan 1984  
Edith Virginia Smith, Helen N. Beckering, Donald F.  
Robinson and Edward H. Robinson, Jr.  
to  
Edith Virginia Smith and William Hayes Smith, her son  
\$41,250  
lots 45-53 in block B of Ingleside
- 925/774            10 May 1973  
Donald F. Robinson and Edward H. Robinson, Jr., personal  
representatives of the estate of Edward H. Robinson (d.  
4 Oct 1972)  
to  
Edith Virginia Smith, Helen N. Beckering, Donald F.  
Robinson and Edward H. Robinson, Jr.  
same land  
Edward H. Robinson left the property to the grantees  
Edith has died previously  
except from the previous deed:  
lots 54-60 1/2 sold in 1950 by 346/234  
8T and 9T sold in 1952 by 373/208  
1T - 7T sold in 1952 by 380/387
- 216/163            13 May 1930  
Samuel A. Spicer and May  
to  
Edward H. Robinson and Edith F.  
2 parcels in Ingleside  
parcel 1 includes lots 45-60 1/2 in B and 3T-9T  
the T lots are large and face McCormick
- 198/126            18 Mar 1926  
Stanley M. Gentry and Callie  
to  
Samuel A. Spicer and Mae [sic]  
8 1/2 acres including lots 45-60 1/2
- 186/496            3 May 1924  
J. Edwin Webster and Dora R.  
to  
Stanley M. Gentry and Callie  
lots 45-60 1/2 in B in Ingleside  
restrictions: no house fronting on Conowingo Rd.  
(Hickory) shall cost less than \$4,000 or less than \$3,00  
on other lots in Ingleside. No sales to persons of  
African descent. Black servants may live there. No  
commercial use for 25 years.

HA-1820  
Gentry House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle







421 0-0

621 0-0

621 0-0

621 0-0

621 0-0

621 0-0

621 0-0

621 0-0

621 0-0

421 E. BROADWAY  
BEL AIR



4A

250

421 E. BROADWAY

NEW YORK

NY

1

21

303

303

303

421 E. BROADWAY  
BEL AIR